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2 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

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Chief, Interdepartmental Affairs Staff

SUBJECT:

NSPG Meeting at 1400 on 3 August 1981

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1. There are two items on the agenda:

--Review of the U.S. commitment to the space shuttle.

--Decision on a new manned bomber (and possibly other strategic systems).

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2. There are two aspects to the space shuttle issue:

--Approval of a Presidential statement on the Space Transportation system.

--Agreement on the terms of reference for a space policy review study.

has reviewed the NSC paper (Tab A), and is concerned that the proposed statement could restrict your latitude on matters such as ELV backup. He has prepared talking points (Tab B) for you to use in registering that concern, but recommends that you accede to the statement after making your views known. sees no major problems with the study proposal, but has a suggested wording change (clipped) to broaden the scope of the ELV portion of the paper.

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3. There is no paper for the second item. The issue will focus on whether or not to authorize production of a new bomber now (a variant of the B-1 and a stretched FB-111 are the principal candidates) or to wait for development of the "Stealth" aircraft which will be more difficult for Soviet radars to detect. For your background, NIO/SP has prepared a briefing on Soviet air defenses (Tab A) and a set of talking points (Tab B). We have also included at Tab C a paper on U.S. ICBM options and possible Soviet reactions in case the M-X program is raised.

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